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A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE STATE PARKS DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF
ACQUIRING LAND FOR A WILD HORSE STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, wild horses of Spanish colonial descent are
part of New Mexico's living heritage and history, but they
are endangered and may become extinct in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, like the buffalo, wild horses are emblematic of
the old west, and it is the image of wild horses running free
across the plains of the west that lives in the hearts and
minds of Americans; and

WHEREAS, the wild horse is part of New Mexico's
enchantment and essence and is an integral part of the
Indian, Hispanic, ranching and farming cultures of New
Mexico; and

WHEREAS, there are several herds of wild horses
descended from the Spanish horses introduced into New Mexico
in the 1500s that range freely on lands owned by the federal
bureau of land management in Sandoval county near the village
of Placitas; and

WHEREAS, although tourism is the second-largest industry
in the state, tourism in New Mexico could increase by
attracting thousands of tourists from all over the world who
are intrigued by the history, culture and art of the American

1 west; and

2 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could prompt local
3 economic development by drawing tourists into a region to see
4 nondomesticated horses in a natural setting; and

5 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could link history and
6 culture to attract visitors; and

7 WHEREAS, a wild horse state park could serve as a
8 valuable resource for educational and youth-oriented
9 organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, a partnership between the state and the federal
11 government to protect, manage and promote several of the
12 remaining wild horse herds in Sandoval county through the
13 establishment of a wild horse state park would promote a
14 national legacy with great cultural significance and would
15 increase tourism revenues in the area of Sandoval county; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of land management will be
17 updating the resource management plan for five thousand acres
18 under its jurisdiction located in Sandoval county, which
19 update may provide a unique opportunity for the creation of a
20 wild horse state park; and

21 WHEREAS, the federal Recreation and Public Purposes Act
22 of 1954 provides that a state or state agency may acquire up
23 to six thousand four hundred acres of land annually for
24 recreation purposes at no cost;

25 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

1 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state parks division of the
2 energy, minerals and natural resources department be
3 requested to conduct a study of the feasibility of
4 establishing a wild horse state park located on five thousand
5 acres of land to be acquired from the federal bureau of land
6 management that will be accessible through the village of
7 Placitas in Sandoval county; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the state parks division
9 present its findings and recommendations to the appropriate
10 interim legislative committees by September 1, 2008; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the secretary of energy, minerals and natural
13 resources and to the director of the state parks division._____

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